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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 9 November 1950

SUBJECT Production of the Cellulose Plant
in Wittenberge on the Elbe River

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1. The January-March 1950 production figures for the Cellulose Plant in Wittenberge on the Elbe are as follows:

January 1950: 830,235 tons of cellulose fabrics, 380 tons of cellulose wool, and 410 tons of carbon disulphide.

February 1950: 861,585 tons of cellulose fabrics, 427 tons of cellulose wool.

March 1950: 486 tons of cellulose wool.

2. The production costs of one kg of cellulose wool manufactured by the new direct viscose process was 2.27 DM east in March compared with 2.31 DM east in February. The newest production method is used in the Wittenberge Plant while the plants of the VVB(Z) Zellstoff, whose administrative center is Heidenau near Dresden (N 51/F 38), still work according to the old method with its preliminary processing stages. The men who developed this new process are Engineer L'aiwald, Engineer Goldberg, and foreman Huemger.*

25X1X* [REDACTED] Comment. The plant belonged to the Hamburg Phrix Trust up to 1945 and is now assigned to the VVB (Z) Kunstfaser (artificial fiber). It still has no plant number. The daily peacetime production volume of the plant was 110 tons of cellulose wool. In 1945/1946 the plant was dismantled by the Soviets. In the autumn of 1946 the Soviets returned the empty buildings to the Land Brandenburg as nationalized property. The plant had been reconstructed by autumn 1947. Early in 1948 the work force numbered 2,100 male and female workers. During 1947 the chemists of the plant succeeded in finding a method enabling cellulose wool to be produced in a direct process without passing the conventional processing stages such as dip-pressing, laceration of the cellulose fabrics and preliminary chemical treatment with carbon disulphide. Thus, considerable savings in machines, energy and labor can be made. Since 1948 this cellulose plant has resumed large-scale production. In 1938 tests were made in the plant for the first time using straw instead of wood as raw material for cellulose wool production.

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As Wittenberge is the center of a large straw-producing district it was selected as the location for the tests. According to other reports these tests had been concluded successfully in 1948. 19 kg of cellulose wool are produced from 100 kg of straw. The following plants are also assigned to the VVB(Z) Kunstfaser:

Rayon Plant in Premnitz (M 53/Z 14), formerly Agfa Silk, with the plant number 63/190/0502.

Thuringian Cellulose Wool Plant in Schwarza (M 51/H 92), formerly Thuringian Cellulose Wool Corporation, with the plant number 63/277/1005.

Saxon Cellulose Wool in Plauen (M 51/K 12), formerly Saxon Cellulose Wool Corporation with the plant number 63/364/1007.

Plant for Textile Fabrics in Glauchau (M 51/K 35), formerly Plant for Textile Fabrics Corporation, with the plant number 63/381/1018.

Saxon Rayon Plant in Pirna (N 51/F 38), formerly Kuettner Corporation, with the plant number 63/392/1003.

Elsterberg (M 51/K 13) Plant for Textile Fibers, formerly United Rayon Plants Corporation, with the plant number 63/393/1015.

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